RUSSIAN · GRADE 5 · AGES 10–11

Grade 5 Russian

First edition · 5 units · 10 lessons · one quarter · Cyrillic with stress marks · A song or video for every lesson · Quick reference

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 5 Russian is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student reviews all 33 letters in print and handwriting and learns the sound rules of stress, unstressed о, soft and hard signs and final consonants, then tells the gender of nouns by their endings and uses мой, моя́, моё and чей.

Then the student conjugates -ать and -ить verbs in the present tense, makes adjectives agree with their nouns and learns pairs of opposites, and asks and answers questions with question words and with the voice. Every Russian word is printed in Cyrillic with a stress mark; the vocabulary cards in Unit 1 also show it in Latin letters.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: RussianPod101 (short lessons by native Russian teachers: the alphabet, vocabulary, grammar and conversations), Rock 'N Learn (Learn Russian for Kids, used one section at a time), and a few videos from museums and other official institutions, each one logged. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. RussianPod101 videos usually begin or end with an invitation to visit its website; you can skip that part. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 5 (about ages 10–11) who read independently. No earlier Russian is needed: the course reviews the letters and sounds and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the speaking practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things. Families who speak Russian at home use the same lessons with the *At home in Russian* notes.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Russian notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice and a recitation: the student says the week's Russian out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Say it every day.** Russian is learned out loud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by saying the sentences and endings learned so far, with the stress in the right place. Five minutes of cheerful speaking beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Russian works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Russian works* explains the pattern; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Handwriting.** Russians write by hand in a joined cursive whose letters can look quite different from print (the cursive т looks like an m, and the cursive д like a g). This course asks for neat printed Cyrillic; the cursive is shown for recognition only, and a student who wants to learn it can copy it from a Russian copybook (про́пись).
5. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new words. Make a flashcard for each one: the Russian word with its stress mark on the front, the meaning (and, for nouns, the

gender) on the back. Many families color-code nouns: blue for masculine, red for feminine, green for neuter.

6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Cyrillic from the first day.** Russian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet, named for Saint Cyril, the Greek missionary who, with his brother Methodius, first wrote down the Slavic language so that the Slavs could read the Gospel. Some letters look and sound like ours (А, К, М, О, Т), some look like ours but sound different (В is v, Н is n, Р is r, С is s), and some are new (Б, Д, Ж, Ш, Я…). The course teaches the letters a few at a time and never asks the child to read Russian in Latin letters for long.
8. **Stress marks.** Every Russian word of more than one syllable is printed with a mark over its stressed vowel (ма́ма, молоко́). Say that syllable loudest. Russian books for adults leave the mark out, but readers for children and learners print it, and so does this course. Latin-letter transliteration is shown on the vocabulary cards in Unit 1 only; after that, each card keeps its English sound guide.
9. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 61 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: а́збука, алфави́т, бу́ква, гла́сная, согла́сная, Ева́нгелие, ударе́ние, мя́гкий знак, твёрдый знак, молоко́, хлеб, друг. Unit 2: род, ма́льчик, топо́р, день, ночь, и́мя, мой, моя́, моё, мои́, твой, чей. Unit 3: де́лать, рабо́тать, чита́ть, знать, понима́ть, отдыха́ть, говори́ть, учи́ть, смотре́ть, ви́деть, слы́шать, по-ру́сски. Unit 4: како́й, но́вый, большо́й, си́ний, мо́ре, волна́, ма́ленький, си́льный, сла́бый, бы́стрый, ме́дленный, споко́йный. Unit 5: кто, что, куда́, почему́, потому́ что, ско́лько, охо́тник, да, нет, коне́чно, мо́жно, нельзя́, пра́вда.
10. **Word games.** The crossword, word-find and hangman games used in other School Launch language courses are typed in Latin letters; Russian needs a Cyrillic keyboard mode, which the shared games do not have yet, so the games are turned off for Russian. Each lesson has a spoken game instead.
11. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.

12. **The Russian Bible.** Russian verses are quoted from the Synodal translation (Синода́льный перево́д), the Russian Bible authorized in 1876 after more than fifty years of work begun by the Russian Bible Society in 1813; it is still the Bible of most Russian-speaking churches, Orthodox and Protestant alike, and it is in the public domain. Verses are printed as in the 1876 text (with e where modern print may use ё, and without stress marks), with a dash for the spaced hyphen. Where the King James prints the LORD, the Synodal has Госпо́дь. The Psalms are numbered as in the Greek Old Testament, usually one lower than in the King James (Psalm 23 is Psalm 22 in a Russian Bible), so the lesson always gives the King James reference. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Áзбука и зву́ки: Letters and Sounds

A full review of the 33 Cyrillic letters, printed and handwritten, the story of the alphabet and the oldest dated Russian book, the Ostromir Gospel, and the sound rules that make Russian sound Russian: stress, unstressed o, soft and hard signs, and final consonants.

1.1 От А до Я: The Whole Alphabet

1.2 Зву́ки: Stress, Soft and Hard

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Род: He, She and It

Noun gender in full: how to tell masculine, feminine and neuter nouns by their endings, the soft-sign nouns and the exceptions like па́па, and the possessives мой, моя́, моё, мои́ and the question чей?, with Alexei Venetsianov's peasant boy Zakharka.

2.1 Мужско́й, же́нский, сре́дний: Noun Gender

2.2 Мой, моя́, моё: Whose Is It?

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Глаго́лы: Verbs That Work

The two families of Russian verbs in the present tense: -ать verbs like чита́ть and рабо́тать (-ю, -ешь, -ет…) and -ить verbs like говори́ть and учи́ть (-ю, -ишь, -ит…), with Alexei Venetsianov's painting of peasants in a threshing barn.

3.1 Я рабо́таю, ты рабо́таешь: -ать Verbs

3.2 Я говорю́, ты говори́шь: -ить Verbs

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Прилага́тельные: Describing the World

Adjectives in full: the endings -ый/-ой/-ий, -ая, -ое, -ые, the question како́й?, and pairs of opposites, with Ivan Aivazovsky's great sea painting The Ninth Wave and Jesus calming the storm.

4.1 Како́й? Adjective Endings

4.2 Больш**о́**й и ма́ленький: Opposites

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Вопро́сы: Asking and Answering

Question words (кто, что, где, куда́, когда́, почему́, как, ско́лько), yes-or-no questions made with the voice alone, and honest answers, with Vasily Perov's Hunters at Rest: three hunters and one tall tale.

5.1 Кто? Что? Где? Question Words

5.2 Да и́ли нет? Yes-or-No Questions

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 От А до Я: The Whole Alphabet: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (illuminated letter) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, say the week's words and verse aloud for five minutes and copy two words in Cyrillic with their stress marks.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Зву́ки: Stress, Soft and Hard: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (sound detective) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (my illuminated alphabet)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Мужско́й, же́нский, сре́дний: Noun Gender: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (gender detective cards) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Мой, моя́, моё: Whose Is It?: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (lost and found box) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (a gender sorting book)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Я рабо́таю, ты рабо́таешь: -ать Verbs: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (verb wheel) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Я говорю́, ты говори́шь: -ить Verbs: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (two-family chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (a day at work)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Како́й? Adjective Endings: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (adjective sea collage) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Большо́й и ма́ленький: Opposites: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (opposites flip book) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (picture description)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Кто? Что? Где? Question Words: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (question cube) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Да и́ли нет? Yes-or-No Questions: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (yes-or-no survey) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (interview a family member)

Materials

Russian notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: vocabulary, letter and ending charts, translations and copywork.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils (blue, red and green for the three genders) and a fine-tip marker

For charts, maps and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who speaks Russian out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily speaking, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	**30**
Russian notebook (dated pages, charts, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the speaking drills and practice with help.

- A written answer is right when the letters and the ending are right. Stress marks are not required in the student's own writing, but the stress must be right when the answer is said aloud.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. The rolled р, the soft consonants and the deep ы get steadier with every week.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Russian to teach this course. Every Russian word has its stress mark and an English sound guide, every practice question has its answer in the key, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Russian? Because it is the most widely spoken language of Europe and the key to the other Slavic languages; because it is the language of Pushkin, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff; and because millions of Russian-speaking Christians, Orthodox and Protestant, kept their faith through seventy years of persecution, and a Russian-speaking neighbor or church is never far away.

This is a course in the Russian language and in the history, art and faith of the Russian people, not in modern politics: it does not take up the governments of Russia, Ukraine or any other country today. Russian holidays are taught as facts about Russian life; where a custom comes from folk belief, the lesson says so plainly. The Christian story is told from Scripture, and the history of the Russian Church is told factually and respectfully.

UNIT 1

Áзбука и звýки: Letters and Sounds

Lesson 1.1 reviews all 33 letters in groups (true friends, false friends, new letters and the two signs), introduces handwritten letters, and tells the story of Cyril and Methodius and the Ostromir Gospel.

Lesson 1.2 teaches the sound rules: one stressed syllable in every word, unstressed o said like a, the soft sign ь and hard sign ъ, and final consonants that lose their voice (хлеб sounds like khlyep).

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 4 Russian, or a year of Russian: the student has met most Cyrillic letters and reads simple words with stress marks.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say and write all 33 letters of the Russian alphabet in order.
- ☐ I can sort the letters into true friends, false friends and new letters.
- ☐ I can read a word with its stress and say unstressed
  - о as
  - а.
- ☐ I can explain what
  - ь and
  - ъ do.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings and often a recording by a native speaker.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any Russian word said by native speakers (link only).

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**От А до Я: The Whole Alphabet**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Зву́ки: Stress, Soft and Hard**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**

   How many letters are in the Russian alphabet? Name the two that have no sound of their own.

2. **4 pts**

   Name three false friends: letters that look like English letters but sound different.

3. **4 pts**

   Read молоко́ aloud and explain why the first two o sound like a.

4. **4 pts**

   How does хлеб sound at the end, and why?

5. **4 pts**

   What were the first words of the Gospel of John in the Ostromir Gospel?

ANSWER KEY

1. 33. The soft sign ь and the hard sign ъ.
2. For example: В (v), Н (n), Р (r), С (s), У (oo), Х (kh).
3. muh-lah-KOH: only the stressed o keeps its full sound.
4. Like khlyep: б at the end of a word loses its voice and sounds like п.
5. In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY ILLUMINATED ALPHABET

Make an alphabet chart of all 33 letters in print and handwriting, with a decorated first letter like the ones in the Ostromir Gospel and one stressed word for each letter. Read the whole chart aloud.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads all 33 letters and words aloud with correct stress.
Accuracy	The letters, handwriting and stress marks are correct.
Product	The chart is complete, neat and decorated.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 1 · А́ЗБУКА И ЗВУ́КИ: LETTERS AND SOUNDS · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 От А до Я: The Whole Alphabet

OBJECTIVES

- Say and write all 33 letters in order.
- Sort the letters into groups.
- Look closely at a page of the Ostromir Gospel.

> **Warm-up.** How many Russian letters can you write from memory in two minutes? Count them. Today you review every letter and learn how the alphabet began.

WATCH

Learn Russian - Introduction to Russian Pronunciation

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 6:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mJGLSMIwbM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say and write each letter along with the teacher.

Note: RussianPod101: an introduction to Russian pronunciation and the sounds of the letters.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn ALL Russian Alphabet in 2 Minutes - How to Read and Write Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsLVdZBHFVI

RussianPod101: the whole Russian alphabet in two minutes, how to read and write each letter.

KEY TERMS

а́збука (AHZ-boo-kuh)
The alphabet (from the old names of А and Б).

алфави́т (ahl-fah-VEET)
Alphabet.

бу́ква (BOOK-vuh)
Letter.

гла́сная (GLAHS-nuh-yuh)
Vowel.

согла́сная (sahg-LAHS-nuh-yuh)
Consonant.

Ева́нгелие (yee-VAHN-gee-lee-yee)
Gospel.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

а́збука

azbuka

AHZ-boo-kuh

noun · feminine

alphabet, ABC book

алфави́т

alfavit

ahl-fah-VEET

noun · masculine

alphabet

бу́ква

bukva

BOOK-vuh

noun · feminine

letter

гла́сная

glasnaya

GLAHS-nuh-yuh

noun · feminine

vowel

согла́сная

soglasnaya

sahg-LAHS-nuh-yuh

noun · feminine

consonant

Ева́нгелие

Yevangeliye

yee-VAHN-gee-lee-yee

noun · neuter

Gospel

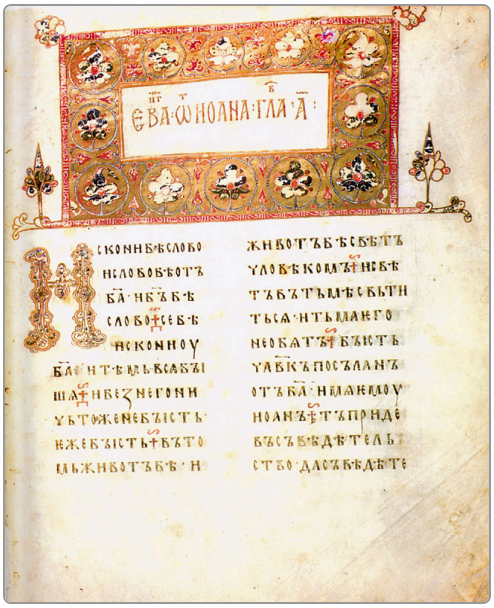
CORE IDEAS

The story. In the year 1056 a deacon named Gregory sat down in the city of Novgorod to copy the Gospels by hand for Ostromir, the governor of the city. He worked for seven months. He wrote on parchment in black ink, painted the large first letters in red, blue and gold, and added pictures of the Gospel writers. The book he made, the Ostromir Gospel, is the oldest Russian book that has a date written in it. It is kept today in the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg.

Where the letters came from. About two hundred years before Gregory, two brothers from Thessalonica, Cyril and Methodius, went to the Slavic peoples to teach them the Bible. Cyril made an alphabet for their language so that they could read God's Word. Their students later made the alphabet we use today and named it Cyrillic in Cyril's honor. The word а́збука comes from the old names of the first two letters, аз and бу́ки.

The 33 letters in groups. True friends look and sound like English: А, К, М, О, Т. False friends look like English but sound different: В (v), Н (n), Р (r), С (s), У (oo), Х (kh), Е (ye). New letters include Б, Г, Д, Ж, З, И, Й, Л, П, Ф, Ц, Ч, Ш, Щ, Э, Ю, Я and Ё. Two letters have no sound of their own: ь and ъ. In handwriting, many letters look different: т is written like an English m, and д often has a tail like g.

PICTURE STUDY



The Ostromir Gospel: opening of the Gospel of John, Deacon Gregory (scribe), 1056–1057 · Ink, paint and gold on parchment · National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This page begins the Gospel of John. In the old Church Slavonic language it says In the beginning was the Word. Look at how even and careful the letters are: every one was drawn by hand.

Look closely

- What colors do you see in the frame?
- Find the big decorated first letter.
- Which letters can you recognize?
- How long do you think one page took to copy?

Talk about it

1. Why would someone spend seven months copying a book by hand?
2. What book would you copy carefully if you had to write it by hand?

ACTIVITY

Illuminated letter

Design a decorated first letter in the style of the Ostromir Gospel.

You will need

- Heavy paper
- Pencil, fine black pen
- Colored pencils or paints, gold marker if you have one

Steps

1. Choose a Russian letter: the first letter of your name in Cyrillic.
2. Draw it large, about the size of your hand.
3. Decorate it with vines, leaves and patterns in red, blue and gold.
4. Under it, write a Russian word that begins with that letter, with its stress mark.

Tips

- Copy John 1:1 in Russian under your letter: В нача́ле бы́ло Сло́во.

Check your work

- ☐ My letter is decorated in the old style.
- ☐ I wrote a word with its stress mark.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the whole alphabet in printed letters, then again in handwriting. Circle the false friends.

> **From history.** Cyril and Methodius are honored by Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian and other Slavic Christians as the teachers of the Slavs. Their feast day, May 24, is celebrated in Russia as the Day of Slavic Writing and Culture.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read the handwritten alphabet together and practice handwritten letters, including the joined letters л, м and я.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Spell your first name in Cyrillic.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Sound it out letter by letter.
2. For example, Mark: M-a-p-к.

Answer: For example: Марк, А́нна, Дави́д.

Example 2. Read the word рестора́н.

▼ **Show solution**

1. P is r, e is ye, c is s, т is t, o is o, p is r, a is a, н is n.
2. The stress is on the last a.

Answer: Рестора́н (ryeh-stah-RAHN), restaurant.

PRACTICE

1. Easy How many letters are in the Russian alphabet?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   33.

2. Easy Name three true friends.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A, К, M, O, T (any three).

3. Medium What sound does P make? And H?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   R; n.

4. **Medium** Write the letters that come after Ш.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Щ, Ъ, Ы, Ь, Э, Ю, Я.

5. **Medium** Where does the word а́збука come from?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   From аз and бу́ки, the old names of А and Б.

6. **Hard** Read these words aloud: студе́нт, ко́мпас, сестра́.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   stoo-DYENT, KOM-pahs, syeh-STRAH.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading Р as English p. It is a rolled r: рестора́н.
- Reading В as English b. It is v: вода́.

> **Make it a game · Alphabet race.** Call out a letter in Russian. The first player to write it correctly in print and in handwriting gets a point. Then the winner calls the next letter.

> **Scripture.** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *В начале было Слово, и Слово было у Бога, и Слово было Бог.* The Gospel of John begins with the Word, the Son of God. The first Slavic Bible translators made an alphabet so that people could read about Him.

UNIT 1 · А́ЗБУКА И ЗВУ́КИ: LETTERS AND SOUNDS · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 Зву́ки: Stress, Soft and Hard

OBJECTIVES

- Find the stressed syllable in a word.
- Say unstressed o like a.
- Explain ь, ъ and final consonants.

> **Warm-up.** Say photograph, photographer and photographic. Did the stress move? Russian stress moves too, and it changes how the vowels sound.

WATCH

Russian Pronunciation - Russian Vowels

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 8:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-9rhrYKN78

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; repeat each example word and listen for the stressed syllable.

Note: RussianPod101: the Russian vowels and how they sound.

BACKUP VIDEO

Ask a Russian Teacher - What's Palatalization and the Difference Between Soft and Hard Signs?

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPfWWWNZfDA

RussianPod101 Ask a Russian Teacher: soft and hard consonants and the soft and hard signs.

KEY TERMS

ударе́ние (oo-dah-RYEH-nee-yee)
Stress (the strong syllable).

твёрдый знак (TVYOHR-dihy znahk)
Hard sign ъ.

хлеб (khlyehp)
Bread: sounds like khlyep.

мя́гкий знак (MYAHKH-keey znahk)
Soft sign ь.

молоко́ (muh-lah-KOH)
Milk: two o sound like a.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

ударе́ние
udareniye
oo-dah-RYEH-nee-yee
noun · neuter
stress (accent)

мя́гкий знак
myagkiy znak
MYAHKH-keey znahk
phrase
soft sign ь

твёрдый знак
tvyordyy znak
TVYOHR-dihy znahk
phrase
hard sign ъ

молоко́
moloko
muh-lah-KOH
noun · neuter
milk

хлеб
khleb
khlyehp
noun · masculine
bread

друг
drug
drook
noun · masculine
friend

CORE IDEAS

The story. King David prayed: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD. Learning to say words well is good, but God cares most about what our words mean and whether they come from a good heart.

Stress and the letter o. Every Russian word has one stressed syllable, marked in this course with an accent: молоко́. Only the stressed o says o. An unstressed o sounds like a short a: молоко́ sounds like muh-lah-KOH, and окно́ like ahk-NOH. That is why stress marks matter. Russian books for adults do not print them, so learn each word with its stress.

Soft, hard and voiceless. The soft sign ь makes the letter before it soft, said with the tongue raised, as in мать (mother) and день (day). The hard sign ъ is rare: it keeps two sounds apart, as in подъе́зд (entrance). At the end of a word, б, в, г, д, ж, з lose their voice: хлеб sounds like khlyep, сад like saht, друг like drook.

ACTIVITY

Sound detective

Find and sort words by their sound rules.

You will need

- Index cards
- The vocabulary from Grades 3 and 4 or a picture dictionary

Steps

1. Make three piles: words with an unstressed о, words with ь, and words ending in a voiced letter (б, в, г, д, ж, з).
2. Find at least four words for each pile, with stress marks.
3. Read each word aloud, using the rule.
4. Have a parent test you by drawing a card at random.

Tips

- Find a word with ъ.

Check your work

☐ I found twelve words.

☐ I read them using the sound rules.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, copy six words with their stress marks and underline every о that sounds like а.

From history. Some Russian words differ only in stress. За́мок means castle, but замо́к means lock. Му́ка means suffering, but мука́ means flour. Russian children learn to read with stress marks, and the marks come back in dictionaries and in books for learners.

At home in Russian. If your student already speaks Russian, read a short text without stress marks together and let your student mark the stress in every word.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read хорошо́ (good) aloud.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The stress is on the last o.
2. The first two o are unstressed: ha-ra.

Answer: huh-rah-SHOH.

Example 2. Read гриб (mushroom) aloud.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Б at the end loses its voice.
2. It sounds like п.

Answer: Greep.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Which syllable is stressed in молоко́?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The last one: -ко́.

2. Easy What does the soft sign do?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It makes the letter before it soft.

3. **Medium** Read окно́ aloud.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ahk-NOH.

4. **Medium** How does сад sound?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Saht: д at the end sounds like т.

5. **Medium** What does ъ do in подъе́зд?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It keeps д and е apart.

6. **Hard** Read these words aloud: соба́ка, го́род, нож.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   sah-BAH-kah, GOH-raht, nohsh.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying every о as o: mo-lo-ko. Only the stressed one: muh-lah-KOH.
- Reading ь as a vowel. It has no sound of its own; it softens the letter before it.

> **Make it a game · Stress clap.** A parent says a Russian word. The student claps once for each syllable, clapping loudly on the stressed one. Then the student writes the word with its stress mark.

> **Scripture.** “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Да будут слова уст моих и помышление сердца моего благоугодны пред Тобою, Господи* (Psalm 18:15 in the Russian numbering) Our words should please God. Good pronunciation is a skill, but kind and true words are what matter most.

UNIT 2

Род: He, She and It

Lesson 2.1 teaches the gender rules by ending (consonant, -а/-я, -о/-е, -ь) and the exceptions па́па, де́душка and дя́дя, with Venetsianov's portrait of a peasant boy carrying an axe.

Lesson 2.2 teaches мой, моя́, моё, мои́ and твой, the question чей? (whose?), and the truth that the earth is the Lord's.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1. Он, она́ and оно́ for things (Grade 4) are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

☐ I can tell the gender of a noun from its ending.

☐ I can name the exceptions

па́ and
па
,
де́
ду
ш
ка
дя́
дя
.

☐ I can use

мо and
й,
мо
я́,
мо
ё
мо correctly.
и́

☐ I can ask

Че and answer.
й
э́т
о?

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings and often a recording by a native speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Мужско́й, же́нский, сре́дний: Noun Gender**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**Мой, моя́, моё: Whose Is It?**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Give the gender of стол, кни́га, окно́ and мо́ре.
2. **4 pts**
   Why is па́па masculine even though it ends in -a?
3. **4 pts**
   Say my house, my book, my window, my parents.
4. **4 pts**
   Ask whose pencil this is, and answer that it is yours.
5. **4 pts**
   What does Psalm 24:1 say belongs to the Lord?

ANSWER KEY

1. Стол — masculine, кни́га — feminine, окно́ — neuter, мо́ре — neuter.
2. Because it means a man; nouns for men are masculine.
3. Мой дом, моя́ кни́га, моё окно́, мои́ роди́тели.
4. Чей э́то каранда́ш? — Мой.
5. The earth and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A GENDER SORTING BOOK

Make a small book with three pages, masculine, feminine and neuter, with at least eight pictured nouns on each page and a sentence with мой, моя́ or моё for each. Present it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads all the nouns and sentences aloud.
Accuracy	The genders and possessives are correct.
Product	The book has pictures and Russian for every noun.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 2 · РОД: HE, SHE AND IT · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 Мужско́й, же́нский, сре́дний: Noun Gender

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the gender of a noun from its ending.
- Learn the soft-sign nouns and the exceptions.
- Look closely at Venetsianov's Zakharka.

Warm-up. In Grade 4 you called a lamp она́. How did you know? Today you learn the rules that tell you the gender of almost any Russian noun.

WATCH

How Can You Tell the Gender of a Noun?

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:50

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJNxjom9SO8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; for the top 25 nouns, say он, она́ or оно́ after each one.

Note: RussianPod101: how to tell the gender of a Russian noun.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn the Top 25 Must-Know Russian Nouns!

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 7:56

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eScuPQSLO1g

RussianPod101: the top 25 must-know Russian nouns.

KEY TERMS

род (roht)
Gender (of a noun).

мужско́й род (moozhs-KOHY roht)
Masculine.

же́нский род (ZHEHNS-keey roht)
Feminine.

сре́дний род (SRYEHD-neey roht)
Neuter.

ма́льчик (MAHL-cheek)
Boy.

топо́р (tah-POHR)
Axe.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

род

roht

noun · masculine

gender (of a noun); also family, kin

ма́льчик

MAHL-cheek

noun · masculine

boy

топо́р

tah-POHR

noun · masculine

axe

день

dyehn

noun · masculine

day

ночь

nohch

noun · feminine

night

и́мя

EE-myuh

noun · neuter

name

CORE IDEAS

The story. Around 1825 Alexei Venetsianov painted a peasant boy from the village near his country home in the Tver province. The boy's name was Zakhar, and Venetsianov called the painting Zakharka, the friendly name for little Zakhar. He wears a big fur hat that is too large for him, perhaps his father's, and carries an axe on his shoulder with a mitten hung on it. He is ready for a day of work in the forest. Venetsianov painted peasants with great respect, and he started a school where village boys could learn to paint.

Gender by ending. Look at the last letter. A consonant: masculine (стол, дом, ма́льчик, топо́р). The letter -а or -я: feminine (кни́га, ма́ма, семья́). The letter -о or -е: neuter (окно́, мо́ре, со́лнце). A soft sign -ь can be either: день (day) and учи́тель (teacher) are masculine, but ночь (night), мать (mother) and тетра́дь are feminine. Learn the -ь words one by one.

Exceptions. Words for men are masculine even if they end in -а or -я: па́па, де́душка, дя́дя (uncle), and boys' nicknames like Са́ша and Ва́ня. So we say мой па́па, not моя́. A few words that end in -мя are neuter: и́мя (name) and вре́мя (time).

PICTURE STUDY



Zakharka, Alexei Venetsianov, 1825 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Venetsianov did not paint a king or a general. He painted a working boy and made him look noble and thoughtful. The fur hat and the axe tell us about his life in the village.

Look closely

- How old do you think Zakhar is?
- What is he carrying? What will he do with it?
- Why might his hat be too big?
- What is he looking at, do you think?

Talk about it

1. What work do you do to help your family?
2. Why do you think Venetsianov wanted to paint a peasant boy?

ACTIVITY

Gender detective cards

Sort a pile of nouns by gender and find the exceptions.

You will need

- Thirty index cards
- Three colored markers

Steps

1. Write thirty Russian nouns you know on cards, with stress marks.
2. Sort them into three piles: masculine, feminine, neuter.
3. Put the -ь words and the exceptions (па́па, дя́дя) in a fourth pile and look each one up.
4. Color-code each card: blue for masculine, red for feminine, green for neuter.

Tips

- Make a poster of the exceptions.

Check your work

☐ I sorted thirty nouns correctly.

☐ I found the -

ь words and the exceptions.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, make three columns (мужско́й, же́нский, сре́дний) and write five nouns in each. Add a fourth column for -ь words.

> **From history.** Alexei Venetsianov left his work as a government official in St. Petersburg to live on his small estate and paint village life. He taught many peasant boys to paint, and some of them became fine artists. He is remembered as the first great painter of Russian peasants.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, find more neuter -мя words (зна́мя, пла́мя) and more nouns for men ending in -а (мужчи́на, ю́ноша).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Is со́лнце masculine, feminine or neuter?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It ends in -е.
2. -о and -е are neuter.

Answer: Neuter (сре́дний род): оно́.

Example 2. Is де́душка masculine or feminine?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It ends in -а, which is usually feminine.
2. But it means a man.

Answer: Masculine: мой де́душка.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What gender is стол?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Masculine.

2. Easy What gender is кни́га?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Feminine.

3. Medium What gender is мо́ре?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Neuter.

4. **Medium** Name one masculine and one feminine noun that end in -ь.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   День (masculine), ночь (feminine). Others: учи́тель, тетра́дь.

5. **Medium** Is дя́дя masculine or feminine? Why?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Masculine, because it means a man.

6. **Hard** Give the gender of: ко́шка, и́мя, па́па, слова́рь (dictionary).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Feminine, neuter, masculine, masculine.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Calling па́па feminine because of -a. Words for men are masculine.
- Guessing the gender of -ь words. Learn them one by one with a dictionary.

> **Make it a game · Gender relay.** Put three boxes on the floor marked он, она́, оно́. A parent calls out nouns; the student runs and stands by the right box. Exceptions earn double points.

> **Scripture.** “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” (Proverbs 20:11, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Можно узнать даже отрока по занятиям его* A child shows who he is by what he does. Zakhar is known as a hard worker by the axe on his shoulder.

UNIT 2 · РОД: HE, SHE AND IT · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 Мой, моя́, моё: Whose Is It?

OBJECTIVES

- Use мой, моя́, моё and мои́.
- Use твой, твоя́, твоё, твои́.
- Ask Чей? and answer.

> **Warm-up.** Point to five things in the room and say who they belong to in English. Today you learn to say my and your in Russian, with the right ending.

WATCH

Learn the Most Common Forms of Pronouns in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #11

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHg7WhTGjgU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write down every мой, моя́ or моё you hear and the noun after it.

Note: RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: the most common forms of Russian pronouns, including my and your.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian | Listening Practice - Talking About Your Family in Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:08

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN9b2lh1DPk

RussianPod101: a short listening practice about family, with мой and моя́.

KEY TERMS

мой, моя́, моё (mohy mah-YAH mah-YOH)
My (masculine, feminine, neuter).

твой, твоя́, твоё (tvohy tvah-YAH tvah-YOH)
Your (to a friend).

роди́тели (rah-DEE-tee-lee)
Parents.

мои́ (mah-EE)
My (plural).

Чей? Чья? Чьё? (chehy chyah chyoh)
Whose?

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

мой

mohy

possessive · masculine

my

моя́

mah-YAH

possessive · feminine

my

моё

mah-YOH

possessive · neuter

my

мои́

mah-EE

possessive · plural

my

твой

tvohy

possessive · masculine

your (to a friend)

чей

chehy

question word · masculine

whose

CORE IDEAS

The story. David wrote: The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Everything we call mine, my house, my bike, my book, really belongs to God. He lends it to us to use well and to share.

How Russian works: my. My changes to match the noun: мой дом (masculine), моя́ кни́га (feminine), моё окно́ (neuter), and мои́ кни́ги (plural). Your, to a friend, works the same way: твой, твоя́, твоё, твои́. Remember the exceptions: мой па́па, мой де́душка.

Whose? The question word matches too: Чей э́то каранда́ш? — Мой. Чья э́то ру́чка? — Твоя́. Чьё э́то пальто́? — Моё. For plural, Чьи э́то кни́ги? — Мои́.

ACTIVITY

Lost and found box

Run a lost-and-found game with family belongings, all in Russian.

You will need

- A box
- Ten belongings of different family members

Steps

1. Collect ten things that belong to different people.
2. Hold one up and ask Чей э́то...? or Чья э́то...?
3. The owner answers Мой! or Моя́! and takes it back.
4. Then switch roles.

Tips

- Make labels for each thing: моя́ кни́га, мой мяч.

Check your work

- ☐ I asked about ten things with the right question word.
- ☐ The answers matched the nouns.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write eight phrases with мой, моя́, моё or мои́, two of each, and two questions with чей or чья.

> **From history.** Russians often say на́ши, ours, for their own people: family, friends and neighbors. A grandmother might say Мои́ пришли́! (mine have come!) when her children and grandchildren arrive for a visit.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, add наш (our) and ваш (your, polite or plural) with all their forms.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “my sister and my father”.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Сестра́ is feminine: моя́.
2. Па́па is masculine by meaning: мой.

Answer: Моя́ сестра́ и мой па́па.

Example 2. Ask whose window this is; answer that it is yours (my).

▼ **Show solution**

1. Окно́ is neuter: чьё.
2. Answer: моё.

Answer: Чьё э́то окно́? — Моё.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say my house.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мой дом.

2. Easy Say my book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Моя́ кни́га.

3. Medium Say my window.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Моё окно́.

4. Medium Say my parents.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мои́ роди́тели.

5. Medium Ask whose pen this is.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Чья э́то ру́чка?

6. Hard Say “Your dog and my cat are in the garden.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Твоя́ соба́ка и моя́ ко́шка в саду́.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying моя́ па́па. Па́па is masculine: мой па́па.
- Using чей for every noun. Match it: чья ру́чка, чьё окно́.

> **Make it a game · Whose is it?.** Close your eyes while a parent hides one item belonging to someone in the family. Open them and ask Чей э́то? or Чья э́то? about items until you find out which one is missing.

> **Scripture.** “A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Господня земля и что наполняет ее, вселенная и все живущее в ней* (Psalm 23:1 in the Russian numbering) Everything in the world belongs to God. What we call mine is a gift He has lent us.

UNIT 3

Глаго́лы: Verbs That Work

Lesson 3.1 teaches the first conjugation with де́лать, чита́ть, рабо́тать, знать and понима́ть, with Venetsianov’s Threshing Barn.

Lesson 3.2 teaches the second conjugation with говори́ть, учи́ть, смотре́ть and ви́деть, and Samuel’s prayer Говори́, Го́споди.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2. The forms of люби́ть from Grade 4 are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can conjugate -ать verbs in the present tense.
- ☐ I can conjugate -ить verbs in the present tense.
- ☐ I can tell which family a verb belongs to.
- ☐ I can say what people are doing in a picture.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings and often a recording by a native speaker.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any Russian word said by native speakers (link only).

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Я рабо́таю, ты рабо́таешь: -ать Verbs**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Я говорю́, ты говори́шь: -ить Verbs**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Conjugate чита́ть: I, you, he, we, you (plural), they.

2. **4 pts**

   Conjugate говори́ть: I, you, he, we, you (plural), they.

3. **4 pts**

   Say “We work and they read.”

4. **4 pts**

   Say “I see a dog.”

5. **4 pts**

   What did Samuel say when God called him?

ANSWER KEY

1. Чита́ю, чита́ешь, чита́ет, чита́ем, чита́ете, чита́ют.
2. Говорю́, говори́шь, говори́т, говори́м, говори́те, говоря́т.
3. Мы рабо́таем, а они́ чита́ют.
4. Я ви́жу соба́ку.
5. Speak; for thy servant heareth (1 Samuel 3:10).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A DAY AT WORK

Write and read aloud a short Russian description (eight sentences) of what each member of your family does on a busy day, using at least six different verbs from both families.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads eight sentences aloud clearly.
Accuracy	The verb endings match the subjects.
Product	The description uses six verbs from both families.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

3.1 Я рабо́таю, ты рабо́таешь: -ать VERBS

OBJECTIVES

- Conjugate -ать verbs in the present tense.
- Say what people are doing.
- Look closely at The Threshing Barn.

> **Warm-up.** Say I love, you love, he loves in Russian. Today you learn the most common family of Russian verbs.

WATCH

ДЕЛАТЬ in the Present Tense - Mastering Russian Verbs

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3FZure68iU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say each form before the teacher does.

Note: RussianPod101 Mastering Russian Verbs: де́лать in the present tense.

BACKUP VIDEO

РАБОТАТЬ in the Present Tense - Mastering Russian Verbs

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TH2qAvZJiNA

RussianPod101 Mastering Russian Verbs: рабо́тать in the present tense.

KEY TERMS

де́лать (DYEH-luht)
To do, to make.

рабо́тать (rah-BOH-tuht)
To work.

чита́ть (chee-TAHT)
To read.

знать (znaht)
To know.

понима́ть (puh-nee-MAHT)

To understand.

Что ты де́лаешь? (shtoh tih DYEH-luh-yeesh)

What are you doing?

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

де́лать

DYEH-luht

verb · -ать

to do, to make

рабо́тать

rah-BOH-tuht

verb · -ать

to work

чита́ть

chee-TAHT

verb · -ать

to read

знать

znaht

verb · -ать

to know

понима́ть

puh-nee-MAHT

verb · -ать

to understand

отдыха́ть

aht-dih-KHAHT

verb · -ать

to rest

CORE IDEAS

The story. Alexei Venetsianov wanted to paint the inside of a big log threshing barn, where peasants beat the grain out of the harvested stalks. The story is told that he had one wall of the barn taken out so he could see the whole space and paint it in natural light. In his painting the work has paused: horses and a cart stand in the middle, a pile of grain is heaped behind them, men and women rest by the walls with their tools, and light pours in from the open end.

How Russian works: -ать verbs. Take off -ть and add the endings: я рабо́таю, ты рабо́таешь, он рабо́тает, мы рабо́таем, вы рабо́таете, они́ рабо́тают. The stress

stays where it is in the dictionary form. The same endings work for де́лать, чита́ть, знать, понима́ть, гуля́ть and many more.

What are you doing? Ask Что ты де́лаешь? and answer Я чита́ю. To a grown-up: Что вы де́лаете? Two useful sentences: Я зна́ю. (I know.) Я не понима́ю. (I don’t understand.)

PICTURE STUDY



The Threshing Barn, Alexei Venetsianov, 1822–1823 · Oil on canvas · State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Venetsianov painted the barn so that the lines of the logs and beams lead your eye to the bright opening at the back. Everyone is resting for a moment in the middle of hard work.

Look closely

- How many people can you find?
- What tools are they holding?
- Where does the light come from?
- What are the horses for?

Talk about it

1. What hard work have you done with your family?
2. Why is it good to rest in the middle of work?

ACTIVITY

Verb wheel

Make a turning wheel that shows the forms of an -ать verb.

You will need

- Two paper plates
- A brass fastener
- Markers

Steps

1. On the bottom plate, write the six pronouns around the edge: я, ты, он, мы, вы, они́.
2. Cut a window in the top plate and write the verb stem next to it: рабо́та-.
3. Write the matching endings on the bottom plate next to each pronoun.
4. Turn the wheel and read each form; then make wheels for чита́ть and де́лать.

Tips

- Add a sentence for each form on the back.

Check your work

- ☐ My wheel shows all six forms.
- ☐ I can say them without looking.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write all six forms of чита́ть and де́лать, and three sentences about what your family is doing now.

> **From history.** Before machines, Russian peasants threshed grain by hand with a flail, a wooden stick joined to a shorter stick by a strap. Grain was the family's bread for the whole winter, so the harvest was the most important work of the year.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, find five more -ать verbs (слу́шать, отвеча́ть, обе́дать…) and use each in a sentence.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “Mom and Dad are working.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. They: они́.
2. Рабо́тать: они́ рабо́тают.

Answer: Ма́ма и па́па рабо́тают.

Example 2. Ask a friend what he is doing; he says he is reading.

▼ **Show solution**

1. You (friend): ты де́лаешь.
2. I read: я чита́ю.

Answer: Что ты де́лаешь? — Я чита́ю.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I work.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я рабо́таю.

2. Easy Say you read (to a friend).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ты чита́ешь.

3. Medium Say we know.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы зна́ем.

4. Medium Say they understand.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Они́ понима́ют.

5. Medium Say I don't understand.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я не понима́ю.

6. Hard Write three sentences about the people in the painting (отдыха́ть: to rest; стоя́ть: to stand).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Лю́ди отдыха́ют. Же́нщина рабо́тает. Ло́шади стоя́т.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Moving the stress: рабо́таю keeps the stress on -бо́- in every form.
- Saying они́ рабо́тает. They needs -ют: они́ рабо́тают.

> **Make it a game · Action mime.** One player mimes an action (reading, working, walking). The others ask Ты чита́ешь? Ты рабо́таешь? The mimer answers Да! or Нет! until someone guesses.

> **Scripture.** "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Все, что может рука твоя делать, по силам делай*
> Whatever work we have, we should do it with all our strength while we can.

UNIT 3 · ГЛАГО́ЛЫ: VERBS THAT WORK · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Я говорю́, ты говори́шь: -ить VERBS

OBJECTIVES

- Conjugate -ить verbs in the present tense.
- Learn ви́деть and смотре́ть.
- Know Samuel's prayer Говори́, Го́споди.

> **Warm-up.** Say I work, you work, they work. Now try I speak. Does it follow the same pattern? Today you find out.

WATCH

ГОВОРИТЬ in the Present Tense - Mastering Russian Verbs

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4oL5ReLlDA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; compare each form with the -ать verbs from Lesson 3.1.

Note: RussianPod101 Mastering Russian Verbs: говори́ть in the present tense.

BACKUP VIDEO

УЧИТЬ in the Present Tense - Mastering Russian Verbs

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08w6Odm1ECU

RussianPod101 Mastering Russian Verbs: учи́ть in the present tense.

KEY TERMS

говори́ть (guh-vah-REET)
To speak, to say.

учи́ть (oo-CHEET)
To learn, to teach.

смотре́ть (smaht-RYEHT)
To watch, to look.

ви́деть (VEE-deet)
To see.

слы́шать (SLIH-shuht)
To hear.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

говори́ть

guh-vah-REET

verb · -ить

to speak, to say

учи́ть

oo-CHEET

verb · -ить

to learn, to teach

смотре́ть

smaht-RYEHT

verb · second family

to watch, to look

ви́деть

VEE-deet

verb · second family

to see (я ви́жу)

слы́шать

SLIH-shuht

verb · second family

to hear

по-ру́сски

pah-ROOSS-kee

adverb

in Russian

CORE IDEAS

The story. The boy Samuel served in the house of God with the old priest Eli. One night he heard a voice calling, Samuel! Three times he ran to Eli, but Eli had not called. Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the boy. The next time, Samuel answered: Speak; for thy servant heareth. In Russian that is Говори́, Го́споди, и́бо слы́шит раб Твой.

How Russian works: -ить verbs. The second family takes off -ить and adds: я говорю́, ты говори́шь, он говори́т, мы говори́м, вы говори́те, они́ говоря́т. The vowels are и and я instead of е and ю. Some verbs ending in -еть and -ать also belong here: смотре́ть (я смотрю́, ты смо́тришь) and слы́шать (я слы́шу, ты слы́шишь).

A sound change. In some -ить verbs the I form changes a consonant: ви́деть → я ви́жу, but ты ви́дишь, он ви́дит. And after ж, ш, ч, щ, the endings are -у and -ат: я слы́шу, они́ слы́шат. Учи́ть means both to learn and to teach: Я учу́ ру́сский язы́к.

ACTIVITY

Two-family chart

Make a poster comparing the two verb families.

You will need

- Large paper
- Two colors of marker

Steps

1. Draw two columns: -ать (рабо́тать) and -ить (говори́ть).
2. Write all six forms of each verb, with the endings in color.
3. Underline the vowels that differ: е/ю and и/я.
4. Add three more verbs to each column and hang the chart where you study.

Tips

- Add ви́деть with its special I form ви́жу.

Check your work

- ☐ My chart shows both families.
- ☐ I can explain the difference.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write all six forms of говори́ть and ви́деть, and two sentences with each.

> **From history.** Russians say говори́ть по-ру́сски (to speak Russian) and по-англи́йски (in English). In old Russian village schools, children often learned to read from the Psalms, reading aloud so the teacher could hear every word.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read 1 Samuel 3 together in the Synodal Bible and find every form of говори́ть and слы́шать.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “We speak Russian.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Говори́ть: мы говори́м.
2. In Russian: по-ру́сски.

Answer: Мы говори́м по-ру́сски.

Example 2. Say “I see a bird.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ви́деть: я ви́жу.
2. Пти́ца changes to пти́цу.

Answer: Я ви́жу пти́цу.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I speak.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я говорю́.

2. Easy Say you speak (to a friend).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ты говори́шь.

3. Medium Say they speak.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Они́ говоря́т.

4. Medium Say I am learning Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я учу́ ру́сский язы́к.

5. Medium Say I see and you see.

▼ **Show answer**

Я ви́жу, ты ви́дишь.

6. Hard Say “We watch and they listen.” (слу́шать: to listen)

▼ **Show answer**

Мы смо́трим, а они́ слу́шают.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying они́ говори́ют. -ить verbs take -ят: говоря́т.
- Saying я ви́дю. The I form is я ви́жу.

> **Make it a game · Verb ping-pong.** One player says a pronoun and a verb (мы — говори́ть). The other says the form (говори́м) and sends back a new one. A miss gives a point to the other side.

> **Scripture.** “And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:10, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *говори, Господи, ибо слышит раб Твой* Samuel was ready to listen when God spoke. We hear God speak through His Word.

UNIT 4

Прилага́тельные: Describing the World

Lesson 4.1 teaches adjective endings that match the noun, the question како́й?, and the soft endings -ий, -яя, -ее, with Aivazovsky’s Ninth Wave.

Lesson 4.2 teaches pairs of opposites (большо́й/ма́ленький, си́льный/сла́бый, тёплый/холо́дный…) with the story of Jesus calming the storm.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3. Color adjectives from Grade 3 (-ый, -ая, -ое) are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can make an adjective match a masculine, feminine, neuter or plural noun.
- ☐ I can ask Ка кó й? and answer.
- ☐ I can name ten pairs of opposites.
- ☐ I can describe a picture with five adjectives.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings and often a recording by a native speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Какóй? Adjective Endings**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Большóй и мáленький: Opposites**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Make большóй match: дом, рекá, óзеро, домá.

2. **4 pts**
   Ask what kind of sea it is, and answer “dark blue and stormy”.

3. **4 pts**
   Give the opposites of большо́й, си́льный and тёплый.

4. **4 pts**
   Say “The new book is interesting.”

5. **4 pts**
   What did Jesus say to the sea in Mark 4:39?

ANSWER KEY

1. Большо́й дом, больша́я река́, большо́е о́зеро, больши́е дома́.
2. Како́е мо́ре? — Си́нее и бу́рное.
3. Ма́ленький, сла́бый, холо́дный.
4. Но́вая кни́га интере́сная.
5. Peace, be still.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PICTURE DESCRIPTION

Choose a Russian painting from this course and describe it in eight Russian sentences with at least ten different adjectives. Present it with the painting.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents eight sentences aloud.
Accuracy	Adjective endings match the nouns.
Product	The description uses ten different adjectives.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 4 · ПРИЛАГА́ТЕЛЬНЫЕ: DESCRIBING THE WORLD · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Како́й? Adjective Endings

OBJECTIVES

- Make adjectives match nouns.
- Ask Како́й? Кака́я? Како́е? Каки́е?
- Look closely at The Ninth Wave.

> **Warm-up.** Describe the weather today with three English words. Today you learn how Russian adjectives change to match their nouns.

WATCH

The Different Ending for Russian Adjectives | Daily Russian Conversations #16

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:03

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vy5vd8AWjF8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; for each adjective, say it with a masculine and a feminine noun.

Note: RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: the different endings of Russian adjectives.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn How to Distinguish Between Adjectives and Adverbs in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #12

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_Oi3dnNan4

RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations #12: telling adjectives from adverbs.

KEY TERMS

Како́й? Кака́я? (kah-KOHY kah-KAH-yuh)
What kind? (masculine, feminine)

Како́е? Каки́е? (kah-KOH-yee kah-KEE-yee)
What kind? (neuter, plural)

мо́ре (MOH-ree)

Sea.

волна́ (vahl-NAH)

Wave.

бу́рный (BOOR-nihy)

Stormy.

си́ний (SEE-neey)

Dark blue.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

како́й

kah-KOHY

question word

what kind of (кака́я, како́е, каки́е)

но́вый

NOH-vihy

adjective

new

большо́й

bahl-SHOHY

adjective

big

си́ний

SEE-neey

adjective · soft

dark blue

мо́ре

MOH-ree

noun · neuter

sea

волна́

vahl-NAH

noun · feminine

wave (во́лны)

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1850 Ivan Aivazovsky painted a shipwreck at sunrise. All night a terrible storm has raged. The ship is gone. A few sailors cling to a broken mast in the green, foaming waves, and a giant wave rises behind them. Sailors had an old saying that the ninth wave is the biggest. But the sun is breaking through the clouds and filling the sky with gold and orange light. The storm is ending, and there is hope.

How Russian works: adjective endings. Adjectives match their noun: но́вый дом (masculine -ый), но́вая кни́га (feminine -ая), но́вое окно́ (neuter -ое), но́вые кни́ги (plural -ые). When the stress is on the ending, masculine is -о́й: большо́й дом. After к, г, х, ж, ш, ч, щ, write и instead of ы: ма́ленький, хоро́ший, больши́е.

Soft adjectives. A few adjectives have soft endings: си́ний (dark blue): си́ний мяч, си́няя волна́, си́нее мо́ре, си́ние во́лны. Ask with како́й, which changes the same way: Како́е мо́ре? — Си́нее. Кака́я волна́? — Больша́я.

PICTURE STUDY



The Ninth Wave, Ivan Aivazovsky, 1850 · Oil on canvas · State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Aivazovsky painted waves from memory, not outdoors, yet they look so real that the water seems to glow. He painted about six thousand pictures, most of them of the sea.

Look closely

- How many men can you see? What are they holding on to?
- What colors is the sky? Why?
- Is the storm beginning or ending? How can you tell?
- Find the biggest wave.

Talk about it

1. Have you ever been in a storm? How did it feel?
2. Why do you think Aivazovsky put a bright sunrise in a shipwreck painting?

ACTIVITY

Adjective sea collage

Make a stormy sea picture labeled with Russian adjectives.

You will need

- Paper, paints or torn colored paper
- Glue
- A black pen

Steps

1. Make a picture of a sea in a storm or at sunrise.
2. Label six things: мо́ре, волна́, не́бо, со́лнце, ло́дка, ве́тер.
3. Write an adjective before each, with the right ending: си́нее мо́ре, больша́я волна́.
4. Read your labels aloud.

Tips

- Write a short caption: Шторм конча́ется (the storm is ending).

Check your work

- ☐ My picture has six labeled things.
- ☐ Each adjective matches its noun.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write но́вый, большо́й and си́ний in all four forms, with a noun for each.

> **From history.** Ivan Aivazovsky grew up in a seaside town on the Black Sea and loved the sea all his life. He sailed with navy ships so he could study the water, and he could paint a whole picture in a single day.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, find all the adjectives in a short Russian poem about the sea, such as Lermontov's The Sail (Па́рус), and explain each ending.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "a big wave".

▼ **Show solution**

1. Волна́ is feminine.
2. Больш**о́**й → больш**а́**я.

Answer: Больш**а́**я волна́.

Example 2. Ask what kind of sky it is; answer "red and gold" (кр**а́**сный, золот**о́**й).

▼ **Show solution**

1. Н**е́**бо is neuter: как**о́**е.
2. Кр**а́**сное и золот**о́**е.

Answer: Как**о́**е н**е́**бо? — Кр**а́**сное и золот**о́**е.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say a new house.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Н**о́**вый дом.

2. Easy Say a new book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Н**о́**вая кн**и́**га.

3. Medium Say a dark blue (с**и́**ний) sea.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   С**и́**нее м**о́**ре.

4. Medium Say big waves.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Больши́е во́лны.

5. Medium Ask what kind of book it is.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Кака́я кни́га?

6. Hard Describe The Ninth Wave in three sentences with adjectives.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Мо́ре бу́рное. Во́лны больши́е и зелёные. Не́бо кра́сное и золото́е.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing ма́ленькый. After к, write и: ма́ленький.
- Using the masculine form for every noun: большо́й река́. Match it: больша́я река́.

> **Make it a game · Adjective chain.** One player says a noun (мо́ре). The next adds an adjective with the right ending (си́нее мо́ре). The next adds another (большо́е си́нее мо́ре). Keep going until someone makes a mistake.

> **Scripture.** “He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.” (Psalm 107:29, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Он превращает бурю в тишину, и волны умолкают* (Psalm 106:29 in the Russian numbering) God can turn a storm into calm. He is stronger than any wave.

UNIT 4 · ПРИЛАГА́ТЕЛЬНЫЕ: DESCRIBING THE WORLD · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Большо́й и ма́ленький: Opposites

OBJECTIVES

- Name ten pairs of opposite adjectives.

- Use them with the right endings.
- Know the story of Jesus calming the storm.

> **Warm-up.** Say the opposite in English: big, old, fast, hot, strong. Today you learn these pairs in Russian.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Learning Through Opposites 1

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XExBXGgOYGA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say the opposite of each word before the video does.

Note: RussianPod101: learning Russian through opposites, part 1.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Learning Through Opposites 2

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeStXYrg4JU

RussianPod101: learning Russian through opposites, part 2.

KEY TERMS

большо́й — ма́ленький (bahl-SHOHY MAH-leen-keey)
Big, small.

си́льный — сла́бый (SEEL-nihy SLAH-bihy)
Strong, weak.

тёплый — холо́дный (TYOHP-lihy khah-LOHD-nihy)
Warm, cold.

бы́стрый — ме́дленный (BIHST-rihy MYEHD-leen-nihy)
Fast, slow.

ста́рый — молодо́й (STAH-rihy muh-lah-DOHY)

Old, young (people).

споко́йный (spah-KOHY-nihy)

Calm.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

ма́ленький

MAH-leen-keey

adjective

small

си́льный

SEEL-nihy

adjective

strong

сла́бый

SLAH-bihy

adjective

weak

бы́стрый

BIHST-rihy

adjective

fast

ме́дленный

MYEHD-leen-nihy

adjective

slow

споко́йный

spah-KOHY-nihy

adjective

calm

CORE IDEAS

The story. One evening Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat. A great storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat until it was full. Jesus was asleep in the back on a pillow. The frightened disciples woke Him: Master, carest thou not that we perish? He arose, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. The stormy sea became calm in a moment, because its Maker spoke.

Opposites. Большо́й — ма́ленький (big, small). Си́льный — сла́бый (strong, weak). Тёплый — холо́дный (warm, cold). Бы́стрый — ме́дленный (fast, slow). Хоро́ший

— плохо́й (good, bad). Ста́рый — молодо́й for people, and ста́рый — но́вый for things. Бу́рный — споко́йный (stormy, calm).

Using them. Remember the endings: Ве́тер си́льный. Ло́дка ма́ленькая. Мо́ре бы́ло бу́рное, а пото́м ста́ло споко́йным. (The sea was stormy, and then it became calm.) The last sentence uses the past tense, which you will learn in Grade 7.

ACTIVITY

Opposites flip book

Make a flip book of ten opposite pairs.

You will need

- Paper folded into a booklet
- Markers

Steps

1. On each page, draw one pair of opposites: a big and a small house, a fast and a slow animal.
2. Label each picture with the adjective and a noun with the right ending.
3. On the last page, draw the Sea of Galilee stormy and calm: бу́рное мо́ре — споко́йное мо́ре.
4. Read your book to a family member.

Tips

- Add a title in Russian: Бу́ря и тишина́ (the storm and the calm).

Check your work

- ☐ My book has ten pairs.
- ☐ Every adjective matches its noun.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write ten pairs of opposites, each with a noun: большо́й дом — ма́ленький дом.

> **From history.** The Sea of Galilee is really a lake, about thirteen miles long. It lies low between hills, so cold winds can rush down and stir up sudden storms, just as the Gospels describe.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read Mark 4:35–41 in the Synodal Bible together and find every adjective.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say the opposite: холо́дный чай.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Opposite of холо́дный: тёплый (or горя́чий, hot).
2. Чай is masculine.

Answer: Тёплый чай (горя́чий чай).

Example 2. Say “a slow river” and “a fast river”.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Река́ is feminine.
2. Ме́дленная, бы́страя.

Answer: Ме́дленная река́, бы́страя река́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Give the opposite of большо́й.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ма́ленький.

2. Easy Give the opposite of си́льный.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Сла́бый.

3. Medium Say a calm sea.

▼ **Show answer**

Споко́йное мо́ре.

4. Medium Say an old man and a young man.

▼ **Show answer**

Ста́рый челове́к, молодо́й челове́к.

5. Medium Say a new car and an old car (маши́на).

▼ **Show answer**

Но́вая маши́на, ста́рая маши́на.

6. Hard Describe the storm before and after Jesus spoke, using two adjectives each.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Ве́тер си́льный, во́лны больши́е. Пото́м мо́ре споко́йное, ве́тер ти́хий.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using молодо́й for things: молодо́й дом. For things use но́вый.
- Forgetting to match: ма́ленький ло́дка. Ло́дка is feminine: ма́ленькая ло́дка.

> **Make it a game · Opposite snap.** Make cards with adjectives. Deal them out. Players lay cards one at a time; when two opposites appear in a row, the first to say both in Russian and slap the pile wins it.

> **Scripture.** “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” (Mark 4:39, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Он запретил ветру и сказал морю: умолкни, перестань* Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea, and they obeyed Him. He is Lord over every storm.

Вопро́сы: Asking and Answering

Lesson 5.1 teaches the question words and how to answer them, with Perov's painting of three hunters, one telling a tall tale.

Lesson 5.2 teaches yes-or-no questions made by raising the voice, the answers да, нет, коне́чно and не зна́ю, and Jesus' words Let your yea be yea.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can ask questions with eight question words.
- ☐ I can turn a sentence into a yes-or-no question with my voice.
- ☐ I can answer да or нет, коне́чно or не зна́ю.
- ☐ I can hold a short question-and-answer conversation.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings and often a recording by a native speaker.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any Russian word said by native speakers (link only).

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Кто? Что? Где? Question Words**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Да и́ли нет? Yes-or-No Questions**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Give the Russian for who, what, where, when, why and how.
2. **4 pts**
   Ask “Where are you going?” and “Why?”
3. **4 pts**
   Turn Ты зна́ешь. into a question and say how your voice changes.
4. **4 pts**
   Answer two questions honestly: Ты лю́бишь чита́ть? Как тебя́ зову́т?
5. **4 pts**
   What does Matthew 5:37 teach about our words?

ANSWER KEY

1. Кто, что, где, когда́, почему́, как.
2. Куда́ ты идёшь? Почему́?
3. Ты зна́ешь? The voice rises sharply on зна́ешь.
4. Answers will vary; for example: Да, люблю́. Меня́ зову́т ….
5. Let your yes be yes and your no be no: always tell the truth.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: INTERVIEW A FAMILY MEMBER

Prepare ten Russian questions using at least six question words, interview a family member (who may answer in English), write the answers in Russian, and present the interview.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student asks ten questions aloud clearly.
Accuracy	Question words and word order are correct.
Product	The written interview is complete and in Russian.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 5 · ВОПРО́СЫ: ASKING AND ANSWERING · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 Кто? Что? Где? Question Words

OBJECTIVES

- Ask questions with eight question words.
- Answer them in full sentences.
- Look closely at Hunters at Rest.

Warm-up. How many questions can you ask in one minute in English? Today you learn the Russian question words.

WATCH

Learn the Top 15 Must-Know Russian Questions You Should Know

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsNRYobSkkw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; pause after each question and answer it yourself.

Note: RussianPod101: the top 15 must-know Russian questions.

BACKUP VIDEO

How to Say 'How do you say this in Russian?' - Russian Conversational Phrases

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 6:27

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkTbRfI2JY4

RussianPod101: how to ask “How do you say this in Russian?” (Как по-ру́сски…?).

KEY TERMS

кто? что? (ktoh shtoh)
Who? What?

где? куда́? (gdyeh koo-DAH)
Where (at)? Where (to)?

когда́? (kahg-DAH)
When?

почему́? (puh-chee-MOO)
Why?

как? (kahk)
How?

ско́лько? (SKOHL-kuh)
How many? How much?

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

кто

ktoh

question word

who

что

shtoh

question word

what

куда́

koo-DAH

question word

where to

почему́

puh-chee-MOO

question word

why

потому́ что

puh-tah-MOO shtah

conjunction

because

ско́лько

SKOHL-kuh

question word

how many, how much

охо́тник

ah-KHOHT-neek

noun · masculine

hunter

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1871 Vasily Perov painted three hunters resting in a field at the end of a long autumn day. Their guns and the birds they shot lie on the grass, and a dog rests behind them. The older hunter on the left is telling a story. His eyes are wide and his hands spread out: surely the beast was enormous! The young hunter on the right listens with his mouth open and believes every word. But the man in the middle is laughing and scratching his ear. He knows a tall tale when he hears one.

Question words. Кто? (who?) Что? (what?) Где? (where, at what place?) Куда́? (where to?) Когда́? (when?) Почему́? (why?) Как? (how?) Ско́лько? (how many?). Put the question word first and keep the rest in normal order: Где ты живёшь? (Where do you live?) Что ты де́лаешь? Кто э́то?

Useful questions. Как тебя́ зову́т? (What is your name?) Ско́лько тебе́ лет? (How old are you?) Куда́ ты идёшь? (Where are you going?) Почему́? — Потому́ что… (Because…). Как по-ру́сски hunter? — Охо́тник.

PICTURE STUDY



Hunters at Rest, Vasily Perov, 1871 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow (Perov painted a later copy too)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Perov tells the whole story with faces and hands. One man talks, one doubts, one believes. People in Perov's time laughed because they knew hunters just like these.

Look closely

- Which hunter is telling the story? How can you tell?
- Which one believes it? Which one does not?
- What did they hunt today?
- What season is it?

Talk about it

1. Why do people make their stories bigger than the truth?
2. How can you tell an exciting story without exaggerating?

ACTIVITY

Question cube

Make a cube with question words and use it to play a conversation game.

You will need

- Cardstock
- Scissors, tape
- Markers

Steps

1. Draw and cut out a cube net with six squares.
2. Write one question word on each side: кто, что, где, когда́, почему́, как.
3. Tape it into a cube.
4. Roll it and ask a family member a question that begins with that word; they answer, then roll for you.

Tips

- Make a second cube with куда́, ско́лько and others.

Check your work

- ☐ My cube has six question words.
- ☐ I asked six correct questions.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write one question with each of the eight question words, and an answer to each.

> **From history.** Vasily Perov was one of the Peredvizhniki, the Wanderers, a group of Russian painters who took their exhibitions from city to city so that ordinary people could see paintings. They painted everyday Russian life.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, ask your student to tell a true story about something that happened this week, and then ask five questions about it in Russian.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask "Where are you going?" and answer "Home." (домо́й)

▼ **Show solution**

1. Where to: куда́.
2. You are going: ты идёшь.

Answer: Куда́ ты идёшь? — Домо́й.

Example 2. Ask who that is; answer that it is your brother.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Who: кто.
2. This is: э́то.

Answer: Кто э́то? — Э́то мой брат.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say who? and what? in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Кто? Что?

2. Easy Say when? and why?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Когда́? Почему́?

3. Medium Ask a friend what he is doing.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Что ты де́лаешь?

4. Medium Ask a friend where she lives.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Где ты живёшь?

5. Medium Ask how to say a word in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Как по-ру́сски …?

6. Hard Ask the storyteller in the painting three questions.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Где ты был? Что ты ви́дел? Э́то пра́вда? (Answers will vary.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using где for where to: Где ты идёшь? With motion use куда́: Куда́ ты идёшь?
- Answering почему́ with почему́. The answer begins потому́ что.

> **Make it a game · Twenty questions.** One player thinks of an animal or object. The others ask questions in Russian (Э́то живо́тное? Оно́ большо́е? Где оно́ живёт?) and try to guess it in twenty questions.

> **Scripture.** “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Посему, отвергнув ложь, говорите истину каждый ближнему своему* Christians put away lies and speak the truth to one another. A good story never needs to be a false one.

UNIT 5 · ВОПРО́СЫ: ASKING AND ANSWERING · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 Да и́ли нет? Yes-or-No Questions

OBJECTIVES

- Make yes-or-no questions with the voice.
- Answer with да, нет, коне́чно or не зна́ю.
- Know what Jesus taught about yes and no.

> **Warm-up.** Say “You are hungry.” Now say “You are hungry?” What changed? Russian makes most yes-or-no questions exactly this way.

WATCH

Learn to Ask Someone's Opinion in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #10

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEGiVO3xkWk

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; copy the rising voice of every yes-or-no question.

Note: RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations #10: asking someone’s opinion, with simple questions and answers.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian - Survival phrases #3, how to ask for things.

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:54

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExANegHINUI

RussianPod101 Survival Phrases: how to ask for things politely in Russian.

KEY TERMS

да, нет (dah nyeht)
Yes, no.

Не зна́ю. (nee ZNAH-yoo)
I don’t know.

Повтори́те, пожа́луйста. (puhv-tah-REE-tee pah-ZHAH-looys-tuh)
Please repeat.

коне́чно (kah-NYESH-nuh)
Of course.

Мо́жно? (MOHZH-nuh)
May I?

пра́вда (PRAHV-duh)
Truth; true.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

да

dah

particle

yes

нет

nyeht

particle

no

коне́чно

kah-NYESH-nuh

adverb

of course

мо́жно

MOHZH-nuh

adverb

it is allowed; may I?

нельзя́

neel-ZYAH

adverb

it is not allowed

пра́вда

PRAHV-duh

noun · feminine

truth

CORE IDEAS

The story. Jesus taught: But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. A Christian does not need to swear or add big promises to make people believe him. His yes means yes and his no means no, because he always tells the truth.

How Russian works: the voice. Russian usually makes a yes-or-no question without changing any words. Say the sentence and raise your voice sharply on the important word: Ты зна́ешь. (You know.) Ты зна́ешь? (Do you know?) Э́то твоя́ кни́га? (Is this your book?) Moving the high point changes the question: Ты идёшь домо́й? with the rise on домо́й asks whether it is home you are going to.

Answering. Да. Нет. Коне́чно! (Of course!) Не зна́ю. (I don’t know.) A full answer repeats the verb: Ты лю́бишь ка́шу? — Да, люблю́. or Нет, не люблю́. To ask

permission: Мо́жно? (May I?) — Мо́жно. or Нельзя́. (You may not.) If you did not understand, say Повтори́те, пожа́луйста.

ACTIVITY

Yes-or-no survey

Survey your family with yes-or-no questions in Russian and chart the results.

You will need

- Paper and ruler
- Pencil

Steps

1. Write five yes-or-no questions in Russian: Ты лю́бишь зи́му? Ты говори́шь по-ру́сски?
2. Ask each family member, using a rising voice.
3. Mark да or нет in a chart.
4. Report the results in Russian: Ма́ма лю́бит зи́му. Па́па не лю́бит зи́му.

Tips

- Add one question with Мо́жно…?

Check your work

- ☐ I asked five questions with a rising voice.
- ☐ I recorded and reported the answers.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write six yes-or-no questions and a full answer to each, three with да and three with нет.

> **From history.** In a Russian classroom, a pupil who wants to answer raises a hand and waits. When the teacher calls on him, he often stands up beside his desk to answer. Saying Не зна́ю honestly is better than guessing wildly.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, teach the question particle ли (Зна́ешь ли ты…?) used in books and formal speech, and find questions with it in the Gospels.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask a friend if she likes music; she says yes.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Statement: ты лю́бишь му́зыку.
2. Raise your voice on лю́бишь. Answer with the verb.

Answer: Ты лю́бишь му́зыку? — Да, люблю́.

Example 2. Ask permission to come in; the answer is “of course”.

▼ **Show solution**

1. May I come in: мо́жно войти́?
2. Of course: коне́чно.

Answer: Мо́жно войти́? — Коне́чно!

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say yes and no in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Да, нет.

2. Easy Say I don’t know.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Не зна́ю.

3. Medium Turn Э́то твой рюкза́к. into a question.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Э́то твой рюкза́к? (with a rising voice)

4. Medium Ask May I? and answer You may not.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мо́жно? — Нельзя́.

5. Medium Ask someone politely to repeat.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Повтори́те, пожа́луйста.

6. Hard Answer with full sentences: Ты говори́шь по-ру́сски? Ты лю́бишь чита́ть?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Да, говорю́ (немно́го). Да, люблю́. (Answers will vary.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding a word for do, as in English. Russian has none in questions: Ты зна́ешь?
- Raising the voice only a little. In Russian the rise is sharp and comes on the key word.

> **Make it a game · No-да-no-нет game.** Players ask each other quick questions and must answer in full sentences without using the words да or нет (Ты лю́бишь ка́шу? — Люблю́!). Anyone who says да or нет is out.

> **Scripture.** “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Matthew 5:37, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Но да будет слово ваше: да, да; нет, нет* Jesus wants our yes to mean yes and our no to mean no. Honest words need no extra promises.